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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,063	12/12/2003	Shalaby W. Shalaby	SHA-48	1267
29698	7590	12/04/2006		EXAMINER
LEIGH P. GREGORY ATTORNEY AT LAW PO BOX 168 CLEMSON, SC 29633-0168			ISABELLA, DAVID J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3738	

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/735,063	SHALABY, SHALABY W.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	DAVID J. ISABELLA	3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3,5,7-10,12-14,17 and 21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4,6,11,15,16 and 18-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

Election/Restrictions

Claims 3,5,7-10,12-14,17 and 21 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 7/6/2006.

Currently claims 1,2,4,6,11,15,16,18-20 are pending for consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,2,4,6,11,15,16,18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahtinen 2003/0059463 in view of either of Inoue et al [4670146] or Horowitz et al [3940377].

Lahtinen discloses the invention as claimed comprising a composite vascular construct with a first blood contacting (it is inherent that this is the inner surface of a graft as mentioned in section [0134]) component and a second tissue-contacting component (inherent that this is the outer surface of the stent or graft) comprising a load bearing textile construct ([0134 discusses textiles) having an activated, blood compatible surface, the second component comprising an absorbable construct for

tissue in-growth, wherein at least one of the first and second components has at least transient occlusive properties [0031; 0054]; wherein the second component comprises a polypropylene fabric having a biomolecule immobilized on the blood contacting surface [0067]; wherein the second component can be an absorbable film (the coatings are equated to films) see [0112] including the biomolecules of polylysine, albumin and fibrinogen.

While Lahtinen is not specific to the process for rendering the surface of the polypropylene anionic for attaching specific biomolecules, each of Inoue et al and Horowitz et al teach methods for imparting a sulfonic group on the surface of the polymer base leaving the surface thereof anionic. It is well known in the art to use fuming sulfuric acid for attaching sulfonic groups onto the surfaces of various polymers including polypropylene. To use the well known method for attaching sulfonic groups onto the surfaces of polymers substrates to impart anionic charges to the surfaces would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art from the teachings of either of Horwitz et al or Inoue et al.

Claim 2, see paragraph [0143].

Claim 3, see paragraph [0037].

Claim 6, see paragraphs [0113] and [0024].

Claim 11, see paragraph [0027].

Claim 15, see paragraph [0283].

Claim 16, see paragraph [0112].

Claim 18, see paragraph [0134].

Claims 19 and 20, see paragraphs [0111 and 0112].

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID J. ISABELLA whose telephone number is 571-272-4749. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-FRIDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CORRINE MCDERMOTT can be reached on 571-272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DAVID J. ISABELLA
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3738

DJI
11/16/2006